# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Tobacco Board
Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Simha Shri Prathap

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Tobacco Board is equipped to balance the stringent antitobacco regulations at home and abroad and the concerns of growers for remunerative prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the tobacco trade at the latest auctions;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure that tobacco farmers would not be pushed into distress like last year which had forced some farmers to commit suicide, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Tobacco board is implementing various extension and developmental schemes for improvement of productivity and quality of Indian FCV Tobacco to make it more competitive in the international market and if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (b) The Tobacco Board, set up under an Act of Parliament [TOBACCO BOARD ACT, 1975] is regulating the production and curing of only Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco based on the demand for tobacco in India and abroad, marketability of different types of FCV tobacco and other factors to ensure fair and remunerative prices to growers. Response of the traders in recently concluded auction for sale of 2015-16 FCV tobacco in the state of Karnataka has been encouraging. The average price realized was higher by 26% over the last year. In the current ongoing auction in the state of Andhra Pradesh, as on 18.04.2016, the average price are given to growers has been higher by 17% over the last year for the corresponding volume.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Tobacco Board is implementing various extension and developmental schemes for improvement of productivity and quality of Indian FCV Tobacco to make it more competitive in the international market. Subsidy is extended to the registered FCV tobacco growers by the Tobacco Board under its various schemes/components like Farm Mechanization, Improvement of Yield and quality of Tobacco, Improvement of curing practices, Post Harvest Product Management and Elimination of Non Tobacco Related Material.
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